

A NOTE ON THE VARIETIES OF *ZIZANIA AQUATICA* L.—In September, 1949, a number of specimens of wild rice were collected along the St. John River at Fredericton in York County, and at Hamstead in Queens County, New Brunswick. It was at once evident that many of the plants in these stands exceeded the stature of *Zizania aquatica* L. var. *angustifolia* Hitchcock, supposedly the only variety occurring in New Brunswick¹. Plants ranging from less than 1 m. in height up to 2.5 m. were noted, whereas the maximum for the var. *angustifolia* as described by Fassett is 1.5 m. Moreover, it appeared that the size was correlated with the ecological conditions, smaller plants occurring on the more sandy mud.

The specimens collected were determined with the aid of N. C. Fassett's key and specimens in the Gray Herbarium and the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club. Some of the material could be referred to the var. *angustifolia*; much of it fell under *Z. aquatica* var. *interior* Fassett; and some of it was intermediate, possessing some characters of each. In addition to stature, the characters used in determination were the purely quantitative ones of ligule-length, leaf-width, and the number of staminate and pistillate spikelets per branch. Specimens referable to both varieties, as well as intermediate forms, occurred in the same stand, growing close together, the differences seemingly correlated with local conditions. It is interesting to note that in the areas visited material which would fit the var. *angustifolia* completely was in the minority.

From these observations we feel that one of two possible conclusions should be drawn. Either the var. *interior* extends much farther eastward than the range originally ascribed to it by Fassett, or the two varieties *angustifolia* and *interior* are not distinct in New Brunswick.—TAYLOR A. STEEVES, The Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, AND GORDON P. DEWOLF, JR., Chelmsford, Mass.

¹ Fassett, N. C., A Study of the Genus *Zizania*, RHODORA 26: 153-160, 1924.